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Inspection of Schools.

RUMORS of dangerous structural defects in Washington schoolhouses are heard every now and then.

Most of these, probably, are unfounded. There will be an element of hysteria among District people for some time to come when the question of building security is under discussion.

But two or three of these rumors may have a basis in fact. Is anyone sure? It is within the limits of possibility that the roof of one of these buildings will crumble some day, without warning, crushing out the lives of those underneath.

There is no better time than the present to find out. Every schoolhouse in the District should be subjected to such a rigid building inspection that it would be impossible for any flaws to remain hidden. This inspection should be conducted by the best experts procurable.

Whenever the slightest doubt was felt, there should be no alternative to ordering at once such repairs as would place the building a long way beyond the margin of safety.

With the assurance that this had been done, Washington parents would spend happier days while their children were at school.

A number of rooms in one of the District high schools were closed Tuesday because of large cracks which appeared in the plaster around one of the supporting beams. Dr. Stephen E. Kramer, assistant superintendent of schools decided after examination that this constituted sufficient indication of danger to warrant ordering the rooms vacated until repairs were completed.

But if the defect is there, these rooms have been as dangerous during the past few weeks as they were at the moment when the cracks became visible. Ceilings often crack. There may be no danger at all. But why wait a warning visible to the eye or ear of the layman when experts could probe behind the ribs of lathing and tell us at once.

Exceedingly unsafe conditions were found in a dozen District theaters when a rigid inspection was made. Yet to the average man or woman there was nothing apparent to indicate this danger. If the Knickerbocker had not collapsed there would have been no investigation of the other buildings—and the public would have gone on supremely unconscious of its insecurity.

Why wait longer to ascertain the actual condition of the school buildings? We have the opportunity and the incentive to start with a clean slate. Do the few dollars of additional expense count against the possibility, remote though it may be, of crushed-out child lives?

The telephone company, in order to acquaint subscribers with the proper use of the instrument is displaying miniature switchboards at various city affairs. Those who have watched the demonstrations are at a loss to know where central gets time to give all the wrong numbers.

In Five Years.

YESTERDAY was the fifth anniversary of America's declaration of war against Germany.

It has been an eventful half decade. In some way or another that proclamation of Woodrow Wilson's, placing the United States in the ranks of the allies, had its effect on the lives of every one of us.

The most noticeable change has been, perhaps, that the provincial era in our history is over. Americans no longer are villagers, to any great extent.

The war made us, for the first time, really acquainted with each other. Precipitation of men from every province into the military melting pot was most instrumental in bringing about this change. Furthermore, we became men of the world. Two millions overseas had a good deal to do with this. And, of course, where the men were, there mothers, sisters and wives were also, in spirit. So the great idea permeated through the whole mass.

War conditions placed many of those who remained outside military activities on a plane of luxury such as they had never before imagined. Fortunes came to poor men overnight. It was inevitable that the people should be gilded, for a time, with that culture which comes with money.

The war brought to us the new order. It will require more than a temporary depression such as we now experience to plunge 105,000,000 people back into the old order.

It sometimes seems as if the United States, and one or two of the British dominions, alone came from the war victorious—with something definite gained. These gained a contact universal with the world.

As for the others—France, England, Belgium, Italy—they lost almost as surely as the central powers. The cost of what they secured was so heavy that they cannot bear the burden.

One-Man Street Cars.

WHATSOEVER ultimate solutions District street railway companies may find for their troubles, the one-man car is not one of them. It is a step in the wrong direction. As yet not many have been put into use in the city. They should stop

right where they have started. The economy that would justify their use must needs be great indeed—far greater than the saving in the pay of one operative.

The one-man cars are slow, uncomfortable and dangerous. Those who are forced to travel in this fashion must endure discomforts enough, even in the most spacious, best-designed cars. When these discomforts are doubled by an alleged labor-saving device, patrons have the right to register the most vigorous protests. District citizens' associations are taking a step in the right direction for the people of their own neighborhoods. At nearly every meeting in the last two weeks resolutions have been adopted protesting against the continued use of these cars.

Unfortunately, resolutions, like babies, are born toothless. Traction companies are not afraid of toothless creatures and probably will continue to operate these cars until some more forcible action is taken.

To watch a long line of men, women and children trying to jostle their way through a narrow entrance, crowded, pushed this way and that, is a sorry spectacle. It illustrates the depths to which a once great transportation industry has fallen. The comfort of street railway patrons has decreased steadily during the past few years.

Some say the street railway is becoming rapidly a thing of the past. There is nothing which adequately replaces it yet. And while we must endure it, the public owes it to itself to let the companies know its patience is nearing the breaking point.

Admiral Peary.

Representative Blanton, of Texas, may run for the United States Senate. This should put him in a class with W. J. Bryan, Sir Thomas Lipton and the Washington Baseball Club.

AMERICA will have fallen on evil days when hero worship dies in the hearts of her people. But fortunately we have the invaluable inheritance of many heroes whose glory was not won on the battlefield or the smoke-swept deck—men whose names stand out in the annals of peace and progress, of science and discovery.

Of all these men Admiral Robert E. Peary, discoverer of the North Pole, has one of the most fascinating and inspiring life stories. The dedication of a monument to his memory in the nation's shrine of heroes, Arlington, yesterday, must needs bring back for a moment most vivid memories of the feats he accomplished.

Admiral Peary secured for the United States the foremost place among modern nations in the field of exploration. His discovery of the Pole came at the end of such a long list of failures by expeditions from other nations that the task was considered well-nigh impossible.

Most essentially, Peary did not succeed where others failed through any trick of fortune. Few North Pole expeditions encountered more constant "hard luck." Pure American grit carried him ahead from the point where others, discouraged, turned back. And at the end of the most glorious exploit in modern exploration he returned to find himself nearly robbed of the credit through the claims of another.

The call of the Northland ever has been strong in the breasts of the adventurous. The most daring sailors of all times have ventured into the untracked ice and the long darkness. There was little material reward. In the great waste, they knew, no vast treasure continents, no mountains of diamonds or hills of radium, awaited a discoverer.

The scientific value of their discoveries without doubt was great. Its worth hardly yet is appreciated. But it was not a sufficient attraction to tempt men to face the tremendous odds in favor of death in the stormy night country.

The trackers of the Arctic, Peary among them, were tempted especially by the glamor of the adventure and they asked nothing at the end—not even a ribbon to stick on their coats.

Surely as high a place in the hearts of Americans must be held by Admiral Peary as by any of the nation's great war admirals.

Worried Teachers.

LOWER standard of education in the District of Columbia is unthinkable.

Yet, according to Dr. Frank W. Ballou, superintendent of schools, this is the one alternative to higher salaries for Washington school teachers.

On school questions Dr. Ballou, of all men in this city, should know whereof he speaks. To him the teachers bring their pleas. To him they present the statistics of other cities. And his position makes him intimately acquainted with some of the inconveniences under which they must work, regardless of pay.

Educational standards of the District are intended to be the educational standards of the nation. Any tendency to fall away here is certain to be reflected throughout the United States. Washington schools have drifted for some time. Surely every member of the House and every Senator realizes that now is the most opportune time to stop this drift.

The situation has been placed squarely before Congress. Parsimony in this respect would be the most serious mistake the Senate District Committee could make in its dealings with this city.

Permission to do outside work to increase their income is granted District teachers only in exceptional circumstances. Yet we learn from Dr. Ballou that it has been necessary to grant ninety-four such permits. Otherwise the teachers would not be able to meet living costs. Such work detracts seriously from their efficiency as teachers. The District's most precious possession, its children, suffer the consequences.

Worried men and women cannot have the magnetism of personality which is required of the successful teacher. Despite their own best intention, they become irritable and impatient. Inability to make ends meet is a most serious cause for worry. It is up to Congress to see that no such cause exists.

The Herald in New York

These Hotels and Newsstands in New York City Have The Herald on Sale:

HOTELS		NEWSSTANDS	
Astor	Imperial	Prince George	
Belmont	Martiniere	Ritz-Carlton	
Biltmore	McAlpin	Savoy	
Breslin	Murray Hill	Vanderbilt	
Commodore	Pennsylvania	Waldorf	
220 Broadway	Pennsylvania	Schultz, 42d	
Woolworth	Station	St. & 6th Ave.	
Building	Hotelling's	News Box, 32d	
200 Fifth Ave.	Times Square	St. & 6th Ave.	

New York City Day by Day Impressions:
by C. C. McIntyre

NEW YORK, April 6.—A star's drawing room, elaborately marbled woman smoothing out gowns of silver, gold and lace. More like a reigning dowager than a stage dresser. Far off the faint sobbing of a muted violin and muffled beat of drums. The opening overture.

And then a honk in the roadway. A uniformed cab boy throws open the door and she arrives—tossing an ermine coat to the floor as if it were a discarded flower. Frantic dabs at grease paint and powder box, snatching puffs from a cigarette with the quickness of a lizard's tongue the while.

Raps at the door. A smooth white arm snatches gay-colored boxes filled with flowers. She looks at the names on the cards and tosses them in a heap in the corner. Her eyes are fever bright and two hectic spots flame in her cheeks.

In a few moments a puff of blue smoke curls up before the sea of faces with a burst of hand-claps. Her name swings from lip to lip. Women suck in their breath in admiration and the eyes of the men take on a covetous gleam. All spellbound by the supreme stage illusion.

In the movies they flash back. So! I had just come to the theater from a house in a narrow crooked street where river warehouses sprawled in a disorderly array. In a lean-to shack, bent over the river, lay a bald, hook-nosed, lean-jawed man—one eye socket flat and empty.

His cough could be heard above the shriek of the river craft—steamers, tugs, police cutters and barges. All meddled in the melody of the stage. Life itself is melodrama. He was the star's father. Her mother, a notorious South American procuress. But he had asked to see her—the star.

He died the next day. And those who say newspapers are ruthless in shattering of reputations may be interested to know this. Not a New York newspaper printed the story.

Down on Oliver street, a throngfare teeming with newly arrived Russian Jews, they hold sidewalk dances nightly. The music is furnished by a mouth organ and the participants chip in to buy lemonade and sandwiches. It is a community spirit that does not exist in any other section of New York.

WORLD SET BACK BY WAR, HE SAYS

"Yes, the war has set the world back half a century," says Dr. Robert S. Woodward, who recently resigned as president of the Carnegie Institute in Washington.

"The women have gone crazy over the luxuries which the high wages brought them. The essential virtues practiced by our forefathers who built this country—industry, thrift and fidelity—have been almost destroyed. Neither you nor I will live to see the regeneration. After the civil war it took search, and greater application of their years; now it will take much longer."

"Nations rise and fall, but the progress goes on. For instance, this war, which has wrought such tremendous havoc abroad, has produced an enormous stimulation in all scientific research. People have got to know one another better. Men in one corner of the world have learned to understand those of another. The bonds are closer and the ties of sympathy greater, so even out of a tremendous debacle good has come, and that is the way the history of the world has been written."

"I am studying people the people and the ties of sympathy greater, so even out of a tremendous debacle good has come, and that is the way the history of the world has been written."

"That is why I say the old-fashioned virtues are being destroyed—not completely destroyed, however, for on the whole I believe in the progress of the human race, the progress of the individual, the progress of the world, if necessary. All through the history of the world progress has gone in cycles, or we might say, in pendulum-like waves of civilization and savagery, of right and wrong side of the storm center now, but with its next swirl it will carry men a little higher along the path. I believe that the world of the future will be a world of peace and order, and that we shall one day be on the upper trend—that is, those who come after us—the next generation."

"But we have many obstacles in the way of progress and civilization. Superstitions that everyone has are extremely hard to batter down in the fight for progress. They die hard even in a race which believes in civilization. Not so long ago, newspapers related how multitudes of men, women and children, many of them suffering from loathsome, contagious diseases, gathered to kiss a sacred relic of yellow fever and cleared Havana of yellow fever and produced there extraordinary and effective health regulations. Those elements will largely aid the onward march of science."

"However, the epochal episodes of retrogression must be expected and taken into account in making up the estimate of scientific progress. The average position of so-called civilized men is always behind the mean position obtained by scientists. But I believe that the war has given impetus to science and that the future looks very bright in the past century we have lived through the ravages of such dread diseases as typhus and yellow fever and a great mitigation of consumption and typhoid. It was necessary which cleared Havana of yellow fever and produced there extraordinary and effective health regulations. Those elements will largely aid the onward march of science."

The Friend of the People
Answers to Your Questions
This department is conducted by The Herald to answer questions of its readers. All questions will be answered in this column. Address letters to The Friend of the People, P. O. Box 100, Washington, D. C.

BERT DIED IN DETROIT.
To the Friend of the People:
Would like to know the State and place where Bert Williams died. How old was he at the time of his death. I first saw him in the Polles. What were some of his other shows?
S. L. E.

Bert Williams died in Detroit, Mich., March 12, 1922. His death was caused by pneumonia. Bert Williams was 48 when he died. At the time of his death he was playing "Under the Bamboo Tree." Some of his other shows were "Two Real Coons," "The Son of Ham," in 1911 he made a contract with the Ziegfeld Polles and played in the Polles for ten years.

EXTENT OF VOCABULARY.
To the Friend of the People:
Please advise me through your column as to the best method to be used to determine the extent of my vocabulary.
F. J. J.

Open a large dictionary to any page, count the words with which you are familiar on that page. Repeat this several times opening the dictionary to any other fully printed page, and take an average of the number of words on any one page. Multiply the number of pages by the known words on any one page.

DARWIN WROTE IT.
To the Friend of the People:
Kindly advise through your department who wrote the Descent of Man.
J. O. H.

"The Descent of Man and Sex Selection" was written by Charles Darwin.

BONUS NOT DECIDED ON.
To the Friend of the People:
I understand the State of Pennsylvania is going to pass a bonus on the men who fought in the last war from that State. If this is true please inform me through your column when it is going to be paid and to whom one should make application.

The State of Pennsylvania has adjourned its State senate for the year and will not meet until 1923. At the time of adjournment a State bonus had not been decided upon.

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL.
To the Friend of the People:
Can you tell me something about Alexander Graham Bell?
A. M.

Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the first successful telephone, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1847. He was educated there and in London, and in 1870 went to Canada with his

Open Court Letters to The Herald

Other People's Views of Current Events

Origin of the Boll-Weevil.
To the Editor, The Washington Herald:
It happened many years ago.
In the cactus fields of Mexico;
A tumble-bug sat down to rest.
On the shifting wing of a doodle-bug's nest.

In his swallow-tail coat of Paris
A handsome bug was never seen.
The doodle-bug, too, was queenly
And fair.
And her bosom had never known a
But her heart-throbs thrummed like
a fly in a jar.

So she gazed on the handsome tumble
bug.
So shaking the dust from her royal
head
She approached her guest and blushed
and said:
"Tis leap year stranger."
Then he arose
And plumed himself:
"Do you propose?"

Invitations soon went around,
To all the bugs that could be found.
And the crowd that gathered was not
the least.
That ever attended a marriage feast;
And the blushing and glare and the great
renewal.

Were never surpassed in doodle bug
town.
At midnight hour the knot was tied,
And the bridegroom kissed his lovely
bride.
While the parting guests joined, one
and all
In the farewell song called "After
the Ball."

The honeymoon passed like a summer
dream
While time flowed on like a crystal
stream
And the married well with husband
and wife.
As they settled to practical life.
"Yankee Doodle," his wife's best
song.

Mr. Tumble Bug heard the whole day
long
And his ladyship laughed till her
eyes turned red.
When he rolled his dough and stood
on his head.

So the "Circus Bug" had plenty to do,
When it came to making a living
for two.
For he and his wife, as a good man
should;
Brought in the water and cut the
wood.
Washed the dishes and swept the
floor.

And pushed her to town on a rubber-
tired ball.
But when their children began to
come,
As thick as fleas in a bull pup's
home.
Their green food instincts were too
quiet.
For the "Out Stinks" of their father's
diet;

So bidding their parents a fond adieu
They spread their plinths for pas-
sengers.
And halted not on the yellow sand
That gleams like gold on the Rio
Grande.
And rising high over hill and plain
They built the cotton belt like rain
And buried themselves, both body
and soul.
In the heart of the Texas Cotton
Boll.

J. A. TAYLOR.

Wants to Recognize Russia.
To the Editor, The Washington Herald:
I am disgusted with The Washington Herald and with all the other Washington newspapers because of their uncompromising attitude toward recognition of the present government of Russia.

Instead they wish to call back into power a bunch of men who now are bootlegging for a living in the United States or following still more evil practices in London and Paris—where they have been quite properly exiled by the Soviet government.

JANUARY 13, 1871, FRIDAY.
To the Friend of the People:
Please let me know what day January 13, 1871, came on a Friday.
A. L. C.

January 13, 1871, came on a Friday.

BLACK KNIGHT JERSEY PAPER.
To the Friend of the People:
You tell me where the Black Knight Magazine is published.
E. J. D.

The Black Knight Magazine is published at Atlantic City, N. J.

WRITING AS OLD AS RACE.
To the Friend of the People:
When did man first begin to write?
O. L.

Writing in some form is nearly as old as the human race. As far back as it is possible to discover evidence of the existence of men on earth there is also evidence that they used some means for recording their deeds and thoughts.

POPULATION OF PHILIPPINES.
To the Friend of the People:
What did the last census show to be the total population of the Philippines?
B. C. H.

The population of the islands is 10,550,440. The government has changed since 1902. In 1916 the Philippine Commission, established in 1902 by Congress, was abolished and a senate formed, composed of twenty-four members. A house of representatives was also instituted in 1916, made up of ninety-one members elected triennially.

PAL MOORE'S RANK.
To the Friend of the People:
Was Pal Moore ever bantamweight champion and so when?
M. P.

Pal Moore was never bantamweight champion.

JUNE 9, 1900, WAS WEDNESDAY.
To the Friend of the People:
What day did June 9, 1900, fall on?
H. D. B.

June 9, 1900, fell on Wednesday.

A Cynic Speaks.
To the Editor, The Washington Herald:
A god man, yes.
This much his friends are willing
to confess:
But narrow, a man of stunted vision,
Walled in by crumbling barriers of
tradition,
Blinded by precedent: a slave to
caste.

His every act seemed prompted by
the past.
There's where he lived; well fed,
content:
A prisoner of his own environment;
Indolent, indifferent to the God of
Chance.
Who bade him break the bonds of
circumstance
And be free, thus he died.

Little dreaming of the wealth that
lies the other side
Of yonder mountain peak.
HAROLD P. STODDARD.
622 E street northeast.

Yanks Didn't Take Sedan.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:
In your "Memory Tests" of current date, as an answer to question No. 4, you state, "Napoleon III surrendered to Germany at Sedan near the close of the Franco-Prussian war, September 1, 1870. It was captured by the Germans in 1918 by American troops."

May I take exception to your answer regarding the capture of Sedan by American troops in 1918? The facts are that American troops of the First and Fifth Corps were ordered to be in position to capture Sedan from the Germans on November 7, 1918, and that the First Division (regular) of the Fifth Corps was in position to capture the town on the morning of the day in question, when they were ordered to retire from the position and all the French Corps which, in 1870, had surrendered to the Germans, to take the city. The movement of the Americans was commenced at once, and the French were left in undisputed possession of the ground near Wadelaincourt, across the Meuse from Sedan, which city was taken shortly after the withdrawal of the American forces from the battlefield.

The Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Col. Theodore Roosevelt, for he led the Twenty-sixth Infantry of the First Division through the lines of the French Corps, before the order to withdraw came, and later gave way to the French general commanding the area.

This is written because there was glory enough for everyone in the recent war, and it is not necessary to add to the many glorious deeds of the American troops in the Meuse-Argonne offensive, by taking credit away from our brave ally, the French.

CHARLES S. COULTER.
15 Malvern avenue, Cherrydale, Va.

Rough on Cigarettes.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:
Now that we finally have cleared away the liquor evil, what is Congress going to do about cigarettes? The increasing use of the noxious things is one of the most disgusting signs of the time that I have noticed of late. Is it not well known that they sap away the vitality of our nation's manhood?

The shortighted policy of the Y. M. C. A. during the war in distributing these nuisances, thus implicating the cigarette habit in the lives of hitherto innocent young men, was reprehensible. As a Y. M. C. A. worker at that time, I was strongly opposed to it, but allowed myself to be carried along on the wave of the popular enthusiasm which held sway at that time.

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The Herald's Scientific Notes and Comment

FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1922.

SEES BRIGHT FUTURE FOR RUBBER INDUSTRY

Though the price of crude rubber suffered a phenomenal drop from \$1 a pound, the price due to the tremendous demand in 1910, to about 12 cents a pound, the selling price during the period of over supply in 1920, Dr. William C. Geer, director of the Chemical Laboratories of the B. F. Goodrich Company, is an address before the American Chemical Society at Birmingham, Ala., to state that the future of rubber is bright. All parts of the world, he said, will need improved transportation facilities in the future and rubber will necessarily play an important part in this development. As crude plantation rubber costs from 15 to 25 cents a pound to produce, Dr. Geer declared that any ideas as to new uses for rubber would now be welcomed by rubber manufacturers. But he pointed out that although about 15,000,000 of the 12,000,000 automobiles in the world are in the United States, the future would see improved highway development throughout the great continents of Asia and Africa, and with it a great increase in use of rubber tires.

The world uses about 300,000 tons of crude rubber and seventy-five per cent of this comes to America. Dr. Geer said. Three-quarters of the American import is used in pneumatic tires, solid tires and inner tubes.

During his address, Dr. Geer revealed for the first time that organic accelerators for hastening the interaction between sulphur and the rubber during vulcanization were first developed and used in America. "The laboratory records of books of the Diamond Rubber Company, which was later consolidated with the B. F. Goodrich Company, show that George Oenslager, in the early thirties, 1885, first used books of aniline oil, and a long list of other organic compounds, with the definite purpose of hastening the rate of vulcanization," he said. "In June of that year, A. H. Hays directed its use in factory formulas, and in February, 1907, he used thiochloranilide. The German patents were not published in this country until 1912, so that it may be safely stated, unless someone comes forward with earlier unpublished data, that the use of the organic catalysts of vulcanization originated with Mr. Oenslager in 1885."

The perfection of a test that ages rubber as much in a day as in six months under normal conditions was announced by Dr. Geer. To test their over-cure, he now rapidly a new compound will age in comparison with one of known properties. I devised a test some ten years ago by which the rate of decay could be predicted," he said. "I now believe that in the heat of 70 degrees C. with plenty of air, one day in the 'short life oven' corresponds to about six months' natural aging."

CAN NOW CAN SHRIMP AND GRAPEFRUIT.

The practicability of canning food products such as shrimp, grapefruit, okra, figs, cane syrup and sweet potatoes, which are peculiar to the South, have already been demonstrated, Dr. W. D. Bigelow, director of research laboratories, National Canners' Association of this city told the American Chemical Society at Birmingham, Ala., yesterday.

That a method of concentrating can syrup so that it would neither crystallize nor ferment has been perfected by the U. S. Bureau of Chemistry was announced by Dr. Bigelow. The syrup made by the evaporation of sugar already been heretofore could not be canned because of either fermentation or crystallization, but the new process, which produces a non-crystallizing product by a method which inverts a sugar, Dr. Bigelow suggested will place a new and inviting syrup on the market.

Acetylene gas, generated by the action of water on calcium carbide, is now being used as motor fuel in Germany.

Condensed milk is one of the most heavily taxed items of manufactured food imported into England.

WHO'S WHO IN THE DAY'S NEWS

Twenty years ago Emilio Aguinaldo was a man with a price on his head—the leader of the Philippine insurrectionists against American troops finally quelled.

Now Aguinaldo is coming to Washington to place before Americans his views on the situation and the reasons for his seeking independence. He will be accompanied by the Philippine mission chosen to come to Washington.

The search for and capture of Aguinaldo twenty years ago drew almost as much attention as those days ago would draw when it broke out. His arrest brought the end of the erstwhile republic. Then he was released. He gave up fighting and developed an immense plantation on which he produced hemp, sugar cane, raisins and coconuts. Then he graduated into the vegetable oil business. For years until last January he was vice president of the Philippine Refining Co. and he was sent to America as soon as they were old enough to receive college education. His daughter, Carmen, became a popular student at the University of Illinois. She is now the wife of Jose P. Melendres, former director of the Philippine Press Bureau in Washington.

Emilio, Jr., the eldest son, is now attending the Phillips Andover Academy in Massachusetts.

When he was released two decades ago he announced he would remain out of politics. He has kept his promise. What energies he has devoted to the cause of his people have been along the line of creating harmony and obtaining greater freedom for the islanders.

Emilio, Jr., the eldest son, is now attending the Phillips Andover Academy in Massachusetts.